

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4824

To amend section 5545 of title 5, United States Code, to provide hazard pay for carrying out prescribed burns, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend section 5545 of title 5, United States Code, to provide hazard pay for carrying out prescribed burns, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wildland Firefighter
5 Hazard Pay Correction Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that the control and sup-
8 pression of prescribed fires is an important part of fire
9 preparedness and land management. Firefighters who en-

1 gage in such suppression of prescribed fires take on risks,
2 smoke exposure, and arduous tasks comparable to those
3 in wildfire suppression. They should receive hazard pay
4 to fairly compensate their risk and efforts. Likewise,
5 smokejumpers are aerial delivery firefighters whose role
6 in firefighting necessitates jumping from airplanes, which
7 is a hazardous duty that should receive hazard pay.

8 **SEC. 3. HAZARD PAY FOR PERFORMING PRESCRIBED**
9 **BURNS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5545 of title 5, United
11 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing new subsection:

13 “(e)(1) For the purposes of subsection (d), duties in-
14 volving the ignition, control, or suppression of a prescribed
15 burn and duties involving parachute jumps from flying air-
16 craft by smokejumper firefighters for training, proficiency,
17 or operational purposes are duties involving unusual phys-
18 ical hardship or hazard for which the applicable pay dif-
19 ferential under that subsection shall be equal to the pay
20 differential for fighting forest and range fires on the
21 fireline.

22 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘prescribed burn’
23 means the intentional application of fire to live or dead
24 vegetation or forestry, range, or other landscapes for the
25 purposes of land or resource management.”.

1 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office
3 of Personnel Management shall issue such regulations as
4 are necessary to implement the amendment made by sub-
5 section (a).

6 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
7 section (a) shall apply with respect to pay periods begin-
8 ning after the earlier of—

9 (1) the date on which the Director of the Office
10 of Personnel Management issues the regulations re-
11 quired under subsection (b); or

12 (2) the date that is 90 days after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act.

14 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section, and the
15 amendments made by this section, may not be construed
16 as rescinding, replacing, or otherwise affecting any deter-
17 mination of the duties for which a pay differential is pro-
18 vided under subsection (d) of section 5545 of title 5,
19 United States Code, as of the date of enactment of this
20 Act, except to the extent necessary for any such pay dif-
21 ferential for a duty described in subsection (e)(1) of that
22 section, as added by subsection (a), to comply with such
23 subsection (e)(1).

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